

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland
Monday, February 17, 2014**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, February 17, 2014** at the time of 7:15 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, and Konnie Kuiper were present. Councilor Dennis Adams were absent. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Also present: Rhett L. Tauber, Town Attorney; Peter Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief; George Georgeff, Commander, Metropolitan Police; William R. Timmer, CFO Fire Chief and Ed Dabrowski of CBL Consulting - the IT Consultant were present.

Also present was Mike Forbes, St. John Town Council President; Steve Kil, St. John Town Manager; and Jerry Tippy, Schererville Town Councilor were also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Town Council received an informal presentation from the Highland Fire Chief, Councilor Jerry Tippy, Councilor Mike Forbes, and Mr. Kil regarding continuing concerns about assigned radio frequencies and the issue of a second dark site for the forthcoming Public Safety Access Point, an Indiana state mandated consolidation of the current number of 18 PSAPS to two.

The issue of paying for existing dispatching employees when the county may not be ready to operate. It was also noted that the levies would be transferred. It was suggested that the existing municipal dispatchers may not be at once "*County Employees*" while still working locally waiting for the start-up of the consolidated dispatching and PSAPs center.

It was further represented that the Towns of St. John and Schererville sent letters to the County with questions regarding the issue of a back-up PSAP site, the issue of funding what is perceived to be an \$800,000 operating shortfall, how will construction be financed (*i.e. whether a bond will be issued and if so will it be a general obligation or revenue based.*) and the issue of paying for existing dispatching employees when the county may not be ready to operate. It was further represented that there has been no response to these.

It was also noted that the transition from the current status and the new operation could create a loss of current dispatchers as they seek the new posts and assume the training period. The discussion included a concern regarding the disparity in pay between the current wages and the proposed wages of the dispatchers at the consolidated center that may be less.

The Highland Fire Chief expressed his reservations about the quality of the service and the absence of local accountability that may ensue. He also offered that he hoped that there were two operating sites and a governing board that included elected officers from the entire community. He finally suggested that the communities should share the existing frequencies.

There was a suggestion that the Chair of the County PSAP Commission, may be arranging a meeting with the County Council and the Commission to discuss these issues. It was further discussed that there should be representatives from the four communities that have still not approved the interlocal cooperation agreement to attend that meeting. (Town of St. John, Town of Schererville, Town of Cedar Lake and Town of Highland.)

It was suggested that the Town Manager of St. John coordinate the participation of the four in the communities and their participation in the meeting previously described.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, February 17, 2014**, was adjourned at 8:22 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer